



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

FEB 19 2016

Sent Via Email

Terry White, Director  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Facility Integrity Management and Technical Services  
6121 Bollinger Canyon Rd, Mail Code: BR1Y4C  
San Ramon, CA 94583

Re: PG&E Mercury Emergency Response  
Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action  
CERCLA Docket Number 2016-07

Dear Mr. White:

This letter transmits a copy of the fully executed Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action (the "Agreement"), at the PG&E Mercury Emergency Response Site located in Bakersfield, California.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information about the requirements of this Agreement, please feel free to contact Robert Wise of my staff at (562) 733-0466 or have your counsel contact Rebekah Reynolds, in the Office of Regional Counsel, at (415) 972-3916.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Meer", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Meer  
Associate Director, Superfund Division

Enclosure

cc (via email): Matthew Dudley, MGDB@pge.com



# ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER ON CONSENT FOR REMOVAL ACTION

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## I. JURISDICTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent ("Settlement") is entered into voluntarily by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E" or "Respondent"). This Settlement provides for the performance of a removal action by Respondent and the payment of response costs incurred by the United States at or in connection with the PG&E Mercury Emergency Response Site ("Site") generally located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Union Avenue and West Monterey Street in Bakersfield, California.

2. This Settlement is issued under the authority vested in the President of the United States by Sections 104, 106(a), 107, and 122 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604, 9606(a), 9607 and 9622 (CERCLA). This authority was delegated to the Administrator of EPA on January 23, 1987, by Executive Order 12580, 52 Fed. Reg. 2923 (Jan. 29, 1987), and further delegated to Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation Nos. 14-14-A (Determinations of Imminent and Substantial Endangerment, Nov. 1, 2001), 14-14-C (Administrative Actions Through Consent Orders, Apr. 15, 1994) and 14-14-D (Cost Recovery Non-Judicial Agreements and Administrative Consent Orders, May 11, 1994). This authority was further redelegated by the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 9 to the Superfund Branch Chiefs by R9 1290.13, R9 1290.15 and R9 1290.20 (Sept. 29, 1997).

3. EPA has notified the State of California (the "State") of this action pursuant to Section 106(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9606(a).

4. EPA and Respondent recognize that this Settlement has been negotiated in good faith and that the actions undertaken by Respondent in accordance with this Settlement do not constitute an admission of any liability. Respondent does not admit, and retains the right to controvert in any subsequent proceedings other than proceedings to implement or enforce this Settlement, the validity of the findings of facts, conclusions of law, and determinations in Sections IV (Findings of Fact) and IV (Conclusions of Law and Determinations) of this Settlement. Respondent agrees to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Settlement and further agree that it will not contest the basis or validity of this Settlement or its terms.

## II. PARTIES BOUND

5. This Settlement is binding upon EPA and upon Respondent and its successors, and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate status of Respondent including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property shall not alter Respondent's responsibilities under this Settlement.

6. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Settlement and to execute and legally bind Respondent to this Settlement.

7. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Settlement to each contractor hired to perform the Work required by this Settlement and to each person representing Respondent with respect to the Site or the Work, and shall condition all contracts entered into hereunder upon

performance of the Work in conformity with the terms of this Settlement. Respondent or its contractors shall provide written notice of the Settlement to all subcontractors hired to perform any portion of the Work required by this Settlement. Respondent shall nonetheless be responsible for ensuring that its contractors and subcontractors perform the Work in accordance with the terms of this Settlement.

### III. DEFINITIONS

8. Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Settlement, terms used in this Settlement that are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Settlement or its attached appendices, the following definitions shall apply:

“Affected Property” shall mean all real property at the Site and any other real property where EPA determines, at any time, that access or land, water, or other resource use restrictions are needed to implement the removal action, including, but not limited to, the PG&E Mercury Emergency Response Site located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Union Avenue and West Monterey Street in Bakersfield, California.

“CERCLA” shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675.

“Day” or “day” shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Settlement, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal or State holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

“Effective Date” shall mean the effective date of this Settlement as provided in Section XXIX.

“EPA” shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and its successor departments, agencies, or instrumentalities.

“EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund” shall mean the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507.

“Interest” shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each year. Rates are available online at <http://www2.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-interest-rates>.

“National Contingency Plan” or “NCP” shall mean the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, and any amendments thereto.

“Paragraph” shall mean a portion of this Settlement identified by an Arabic numeral or an upper or lower case letter.

“Parties” shall mean EPA and Respondent.

“RCRA” shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901-6992 (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

“Respondent” shall mean the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

“Response Costs” shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States incurs in reviewing or developing deliverables submitted pursuant to this Settlement, in overseeing implementation of the Work, or otherwise implementing, overseeing, or enforcing this Settlement, including but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to Section IX (Property Requirements) (including, but not limited to, cost of attorney time and any monies paid to secure or enforce access, including, but not limited to, the amount of just compensation), Section XIII (Emergency Response and Notification of Releases), Paragraph 69 (Work Takeover), community involvement (including, but not limited to, the costs of any technical assistance grant under Section 117(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9617(e)), Section XV (Dispute Resolution), and all litigation costs. Response Costs shall also include Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) costs regarding the Site. Response costs include past response costs which include all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States paid at or in connection with the Site through the Effective Date of this settlement.

“Section” shall mean a portion of this Settlement identified by a Roman numeral.

“Settlement” shall mean this Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent and all appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXVIII (Integration)).

“Site” shall mean the PG&E Mercury Emergency Response Site, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Union Avenue and West Monterey Street in Bakersfield, California.

“State” shall mean the State of California.

“Transfer” shall mean to sell, assign, convey, lease, mortgage, or grant a security interest in, or where used as a noun, a sale, assignment, conveyance, or other disposition of any interest by operation of law or otherwise.

“United States” shall mean the United States of America and each department, agency, and instrumentality of the United States, including EPA.

“Waste Material” shall mean (a) any “hazardous substance” under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14); (b) any pollutant or contaminant under Section 101(33) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(33); (c) any “solid waste” under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27); and (d) any “hazardous material” as may be defined under State law.

“Work” shall mean all activities and obligations Respondent are required to perform under this Settlement except those required by Section XI (Record Retention).

#### IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

9. The following findings of fact:

- a. Respondent is the current owner and operator of the Site.
- b. The Site is a gas regulator station located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Union Avenue and West Monterey Street in Bakersfield, California. The facility is fenced and Respondent has hired a security guard to provide 24-hour security of the facility. Since October 13, 2016, Respondent has conducted a valve replacement project at the facility.
- c. On or about January 14, 2016, during the ongoing valve replacement project at the facility, Respondent uncovered mercury contamination in the soil at the Site. On January 15, 2016, Respondent responded to the discovery of mercury in the soil at the facility by deploying contractors trained in handling hazardous materials to the Site to clean up the contamination. That same day, Respondent initiated cleanup work to secure the Site, prevent off-site migration of material by deploying stormwater Best Management Practices and tracking personnel and equipment that had been at the Site.
- d. On January 15, 2016, Respondent reported the incident to the California Office of Emergency Services State Warning Center and the Certified Unified Program Agency, the Bakersfield Fire Department. On January 28, 2016, Respondent reported the incident to the National Response Center.
- e. On January 27, 2016, the Bakersfield Fire Department contacted EPA to request assistance for assessing mercury contamination at the Site.
- f. On January 28, 2016, EPA, with contractor support, mobilized to the Site. Upon arrival, EPA discovered an uncovered debris pile that contained visual elemental mercury. That same day, Respondent, with oversight by EPA, as part of its response, continued its work which included the placement of contaminated soil and debris in roll-off bins for off-site disposal, vacuumed the area containing mercury, and treated free mercury with amalgam.
- g. The extent of remaining mercury contamination remains to be characterized and addressed.
- h. The Site is adjacent to an aboveground storm drain. To the west of the Site is a vacant parcel with potential for transient occupation by a homeless camp.
- i. Mercury exposure at high levels can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages. High levels of methylmercury in the bloodstream of babies developing in the womb and young children may harm their developing nervous systems, affecting their ability to think and learn.



## V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DETERMINATIONS

10. Based on the Findings of Fact set forth above, and the administrative record, EPA has determined that:

- a. The Site is a “facility” as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).
- b. The contamination found at the Site, as identified in the Findings of Fact above, includes mercury, which is a “hazardous substance” as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14).
- c. Respondent is a “person” as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).
- d. Respondent is a responsible party under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a). Respondent is the “owner” and/or “operator” of the facility, as defined by Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), and within the meaning of Section 107(a)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(1).
- e. The conditions described in Paragraph 9 of the Findings of Fact above constitute an actual or threatened “release” of a hazardous substance from the facility as defined by Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(22).
- f. The removal action required by this Settlement is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment and, if carried out in compliance with the terms of this Settlement, will be consistent with the NCP, as provided in Section 300.700(c)(3)(ii) of the NCP.

## VI. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

11. Based upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Determinations set forth above, and the administrative record, it is hereby Ordered and Agreed that Respondent shall comply with all provisions of this Settlement, including, but not limited to, all appendices to this Settlement and all documents incorporated by reference into this Settlement.

## VII. DESIGNATION OF CONTRACTOR, PROJECT COORDINATOR, AND ON-SCENE COORDINATOR

12. Respondent shall retain one or more contractors or subcontractors to perform the Work and shall notify EPA of the name(s) and qualifications of such contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) within three (3) days after the Effective Date. Respondent shall also notify EPA of the name(s) and qualification(s) of any other contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) retained to perform the Work at least two (2) days prior to commencement of such Work. EPA retains the right to disapprove of any or all of the contractors and/or subcontractors retained by Respondent. If EPA disapproves of a selected contractor or subcontractor, Respondent shall retain a different contractor or subcontractor and shall notify EPA of that contractor’s or subcontractor’s name and qualifications within five (5) days after EPA’s disapproval. The qualifications of the persons

undertaking the Work for Respondent shall be subject to EPA's review for verification that such persons meet minimum technical background and experience requirements.

13. Respondent has designated, and EPA has not disapproved, the following individual as Project Coordinator, who shall be responsible for administration of all actions by Respondent required by this Settlement: Fred Flint, 3401 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon, California, 94583, (925) 415-6349, and fxf5@pge.com. To the greatest extent possible, the Project Coordinator shall be present on Site or readily available during Site work. If EPA disapproves of the designated Project Coordinator, Respondent shall retain a different Project Coordinator and shall notify EPA of that person's name, address, telephone number, email address, and qualifications within two (2) days following EPA's disapproval. Notice or communication relating to this Settlement from EPA to Respondent's Project Coordinator shall constitute notice or communication to Respondent.

14. EPA has designated Robert Wise of the Emergency Response Section, EPA Region 9, as its On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). EPA and Respondent each shall have the right, subject to Paragraph 13, to change its respective designated OSC or Project Coordinator. Respondent shall notify EPA three (3) days before such a change is made. The initial notification by Respondent may be made orally, but shall be promptly followed by a written notice.

15. The OSC shall be responsible for overseeing Respondent's implementation of this Settlement. The OSC shall have the authority vested in an OSC by the NCP, including the authority to halt, conduct, or direct any Work required by this Settlement, or to direct any other removal action undertaken at the Site. Absence of the OSC from the Site shall not be cause for stoppage of work unless specifically directed by the OSC.

#### VIII. WORK TO BE PERFORMED

16. Respondent shall perform, at a minimum, all actions necessary to implement the following items. The actions to be implemented generally include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Investigate the source of the mercury spill and determine whether the spill impacted gas transmission lines;

b. Properly remove elemental mercury and mercury contaminated soil from the Site to achieve the cleanup action level of 4 mg/kg, the industrial Region 9 Site Screening Level;

c. Maintain Site security and restrict Site access; and

d. By February 16, 2016, submit to the OSC proof of compliance with 29 CFR § 1910.120: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) for all of Respondent's employees and contractors (proof of compliance must include: the written safety and health program plan and all ancillary plans required pursuant to 29 CFR § 1910.120(b)(1); proof of a medical surveillance program pursuant to 29 CFR § 1910.120(f); and proof of training pursuant to 29 CFR § 1910.120(e)).

17. For any regulation or guidance referenced in the Settlement, the reference will be read to include any subsequent modification, amendment, or replacement of such regulation or guidance. Such modifications, amendments, or replacements apply to the Work only after Respondent receives notification from EPA of the modification, amendment, or replacement.

18. Work Plan and Implementation.

a. No later than March 21, 2016, in accordance with Paragraph 19 (Submission of Deliverables), Respondent shall submit to EPA for approval a draft work plan for performing the removal action (the "Removal Work Plan") generally described in Paragraph 16, above. The draft Removal Work Plan shall provide a description of, and an expeditious schedule for, the actions required by this Settlement.

b. EPA may approve, disapprove, require revisions to, or modify the draft Removal Work Plan in whole or in part. If EPA requires revisions, Respondent shall submit a revised draft Removal Work Plan within two (2) days after receipt of EPA's notification of the required revisions. Respondent shall implement the Removal Work Plan as approved in writing by EPA in accordance with the schedule approved by EPA. Once approved, or approved with modifications, the Removal Work Plan, the schedule, and any subsequent modifications shall be incorporated into and become fully enforceable under this Settlement.

c. Upon approval or approval with modifications of the Removal Work Plan, Respondent shall commence implementation of the Work in accordance with the schedule included therein. Respondent shall not commence or perform any Work except in conformance with the terms of this Settlement.

d. Unless otherwise provided in this Settlement, any additional deliverables that require EPA approval under the Removal Work Plan shall be reviewed and approved by EPA in accordance with this Paragraph.

19. Submission of Deliverables.

a. General Requirements for Deliverables.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Settlement, Respondent shall direct all submissions required by this Settlement to the OSC, Robert Wise, via email at wise.robert@epa.gov. Respondent shall submit all deliverables required by this Settlement, or any approved work plan to EPA in accordance with the schedule set forth in such plan.

(2) Respondent shall submit all deliverables in electronic form. Technical specifications for sampling and monitoring data and spatial data are addressed in Paragraph 19.b. All other deliverables shall be submitted to EPA in the form specified by the OSC. If any deliverable includes maps, drawings, or other exhibits that are larger than 8.5 x 11 inches, Respondent shall also provide EPA with paper copies of such exhibits.

b. Technical Specifications for Deliverables.

(1) Sampling and monitoring data should be submitted in standard Regional Electronic Data Deliverable (EDD) format. Other delivery methods may be allowed if electronic direct submission presents a significant burden or as technology changes.

(2) Spatial data, including spatially-referenced data and geospatial data, should be submitted: (a) in the ESRI File Geodatabase format; and (b) as unprojected geographic coordinates in decimal degree format using North American Datum 1983 (NAD83) or World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) as the datum. If applicable, submissions should include the collection method(s). Projected coordinates may optionally be included but must be documented. Spatial data should be accompanied by metadata, and such metadata should be compliant with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata and its EPA profile, the EPA Geospatial Metadata Technical Specification. An add-on metadata editor for ESRI software, the EPA Metadata Editor (EME), complies with these FGDC and EPA metadata requirements and is available at <https://edg.epa.gov/EME/>.

(3) Each file must include an attribute name for each site unit or sub-unit submitted. Consult <http://www.epa.gov/geospatial/policies.html> for any further available guidance on attribute identification and naming.

(4) Spatial data submitted by Respondent does not, and is not intended to, define the boundaries of the Site.

20. Health and Safety Plan. No later than February 16, 2016, Respondent shall submit for EPA review and comment a plan that ensures the protection of the public health and safety during performance of on-site work under this Settlement. This plan shall be prepared in accordance with "OSWER Integrated Health and Safety Program Operating Practices for OSWER Field Activities," Pub. 9285.0-OIC (Nov. 2002), available on the NSCEP database at <http://www.epa.gov/nscep/index.html>, and "EPA's Emergency Responder Health and Safety Manual," OSWER Directive 9285.3-12 (July 2005 and updates), available at <http://www.epaossc.org/HealthSafetyManual/manual-index.htm>. In addition, the plan shall comply with all currently applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations found at 29 C.F.R. Part 1910. If EPA determines that it is appropriate, the plan shall also include contingency planning. Respondent shall incorporate all changes to the plan recommended by EPA and shall implement the plan during the pendency of the removal action. Respondent shall update the Health and Safety Plan upon completion of the removal assessment, that will be implemented as part of the implementation of the Removal Work Plan.

21. Quality Assurance, Sampling, and Data Analysis.

a. Respondent shall use quality assurance, quality control, and other technical activities and chain of custody procedures for all samples consistent with "EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R5)" EPA/240/B-01/003 (March 2001, reissued May 2006), "Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/G-5)" EPA/240/R-02/009 (December 2002), and "Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans," Parts 1-3, EPA/505/B-04/900A-900C (March 2005).

b. Sampling and Analysis Plan. No later than February 16, 2016, Respondent shall submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan to EPA for review and approval. This plan shall consist of a Field Sampling Plan (FSP) and, if requested by EPA, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that is consistent with the Removal Work Plan, the NCP and applicable guidance documents, including, but not limited to, "Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/G-5)" EPA/240/R-02/009 (December 2002), "EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5)" EPA 240/B-01/003 (March 2001, reissued May 2006), and "Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans," Parts 1-3, EPA/505/B-04/900A-900C (March 2005). Upon its approval by EPA, the Sampling and Analysis Plan shall be incorporated into and become enforceable under this Settlement.

c. Respondent shall ensure that EPA personnel and its authorized representatives are allowed access at reasonable times to all laboratories utilized by Respondent in implementing this Settlement. In addition, if a QAPP is developed, Respondent shall ensure that such laboratories shall analyze all samples submitted by EPA pursuant to the QAPP for quality assurance, quality control, and technical activities that will satisfy the stated performance criteria as specified in the QAPP and that sampling and field activities are conducted in accordance with EPA's "Field Operations Group Operational Guidelines for Field Activities" (<http://www.epa.gov/region8/qa/FieldOperationsGroupOperationalGuidelinesForFieldActivities.pdf>) and "EPA QA Field Activities Procedure" (<http://www.epa.gov/irm poli8/policies/2105-p-02.pdf>). Respondent shall ensure that the laboratories it utilizes for the analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Settlement meet the competency requirements set forth in EPA's "Policy to Assure Competency of Laboratories, Field Sampling, and Other Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Acquisitions" (<http://www.epa.gov/fem/pdfs/fem-lab-competency-policy.pdf>) and that the laboratories perform all analyses according to accepted EPA methods. Accepted EPA methods consist of, but are not limited to, methods that are documented in the EPA's Contract Laboratory Program (<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/clp/>), SW 846 "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods" (<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/sw846/online/index.htm>), "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (<http://www.standardmethods.org/>), 40 CFR Part 136, "Air Toxics - Monitoring Methods" (<http://www.epa.gov/ttnamti1/airtox.html>).

d. However, upon approval by EPA, Respondent may use other appropriate analytical method(s), as long as (i) quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) criteria are contained in the method(s) and the method(s) are included in the QAPP, (ii) the analytical method(s) are at least as stringent as the methods listed above, and (iii) the method(s) have been approved for use by a nationally recognized organization responsible for verification and publication of analytical methods, e.g., EPA, ASTM, NIOSH, OSHA, etc. Respondent shall ensure that all laboratories they use for analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Settlement have a documented Quality System that complies with ASQ/ANSI E4:2014 "Quality management systems for environmental information and technology programs - Requirements with guidance for use" (American Society for Quality, February 2014), and "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2)" EPA/240/B-01/002 (March 2001, reissued May 2006), or equivalent documentation as determined by EPA. EPA may consider Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) laboratories, laboratories accredited under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), or laboratories that meet

International Standardization Organization (ISO 17025) standards or other nationally recognized programs (<http://www.epa.gov/fem/accredit.htm>) as meeting the Quality System requirements. Respondent shall ensure that all field methodologies utilized in collecting samples for subsequent analysis pursuant to this Settlement are conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the QAPP approved by EPA.

e. Upon request, Respondent shall provide split or duplicate samples to EPA or its authorized representatives. Respondent shall notify EPA not less than seven (7) days in advance of any sample collection activity unless shorter notice is agreed to by EPA. In addition, EPA shall have the right to take any additional samples that EPA deems necessary. Upon request, EPA shall provide to Respondent split or duplicate samples of any samples it takes as part of EPA's oversight of Respondent's implementation of the Work.

f. Respondent shall submit to EPA the results of all sampling and/or tests or other data obtained or generated by or on behalf of Respondent with respect to the Site and/or the implementation of this Settlement.

g. Respondent waives any objections to any data gathered, generated, or evaluated by EPA or Respondent in the performance or oversight of the Work that has been verified according to the QA/QC procedures required by the Settlement or any EPA-approved Work Plans or Sampling and Analysis Plans. If Respondent objects to any other data relating to the Work, Respondent shall submit to EPA a report that specifically identifies and explains its objections, describes the acceptable uses of the data, if any, and identifies any limitations to the use of the data. The report must be submitted to EPA within fifteen (15) days after the monthly progress report containing the data.

22. Progress Reports. Respondent shall submit a written progress report to EPA concerning actions undertaken pursuant to this Settlement on a weekly basis, or as otherwise requested by EPA, from the date of receipt of EPA's approval of the Removal Work Plan until issuance of Notice of Completion of Work pursuant to Section XXVII, unless otherwise directed in writing by the OSC. These reports shall describe all significant developments during the preceding period, including the actions performed and any problems encountered, analytical data received during the reporting period, and the developments anticipated during the next reporting period, including a schedule of actions to be performed, anticipated problems, and planned resolutions of past or anticipated problems.

23. Final Report. Within thirty (30) days after completion of all Work required by this Settlement, other than continuing obligations listed in Paragraph 91 (notice of completion), Respondent shall submit for EPA review and approval a final report summarizing the actions taken to comply with this Settlement. The final report shall conform, at a minimum, with the requirements set forth in Section 300.165 of the NCP entitled "OSC Reports." The final report shall include a good faith estimate of total costs or a statement of actual costs incurred in complying with the Settlement, a listing of quantities and types of materials removed off-Site or handled on-Site, a discussion of removal and disposal options considered for those materials, a listing of the ultimate destination(s) of those materials, a presentation of the analytical results of all sampling and analyses performed, and accompanying appendices containing all relevant documentation generated during the removal action (e.g., manifests, invoices, bills, contracts,

and permits). The final report shall also include the following certification signed by a responsible corporate official of Respondent or Respondent's Project Coordinator: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I have no personal knowledge that the information submitted is other than true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

24. Off-Site Shipments.

a. Respondent may ship hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants from the Site to an off-Site facility only if it complies with Section 121(d)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9621(d)(3), and 40 C.F.R. § 300.440. Respondent will be deemed to be in compliance with CERCLA Section 121(d)(3) and 40 C.F.R. § 300.440 regarding a shipment if Respondent obtains a prior determination from EPA that the proposed receiving facility for such shipment is acceptable under the criteria of 40 C.F.R. § 300.440(b).

b. Respondent may ship Waste Material from the Site to an out-of-state waste management facility only if, prior to any shipment, it provides written notice to the appropriate state environmental official in the receiving facility's state and to the OSC. This written notice requirement shall not apply to any off-Site shipments when the total quantity of all such shipments will not exceed ten cubic yards. The written notice must include the following information, if available: (1) the name and location of the receiving facility; (2) the type and quantity of Waste Material to be shipped; (3) the schedule for the shipment; and (4) the method of transportation. Respondent also shall notify the state environmental official referenced above and the OSC of any major changes in the shipment plan, such as a decision to ship the Waste Material to a different out-of-state facility. Respondent shall provide the written notice after the award of the contract for the removal action and before the Waste Material is shipped.

c. Respondent may ship Investigation Derived Waste (IDW) from the Site to an off-Site facility only if it complies with Section 121(d)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9621(d)(3), 40 C.F.R. § 300.440, EPA's "Guide to Management of Investigation Derived Waste," OSWER 9345.3-03FS (Jan. 1992), and any IDW-specific requirements contained in the Removal Work Plan. Wastes shipped off-Site to a laboratory for characterization, and RCRA hazardous wastes that meet the requirements for an exemption from RCRA under 40 C.F.R. § 261.4(e) shipped off-Site for treatability studies, are not subject to 40 C.F.R. § 300.440.

IX. PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS

25. Agreements Regarding Access and Non-Interference. Respondent shall, with respect to any Non-Settling Owner's Affected Property, use best efforts to secure from such Non-Settling Owner an agreement, enforceable by Respondent and the EPA, providing that such Non-Settling Owner, and Respondent shall, with respect to Respondent's Affected Property: (i) provide the EPA, Respondent, and its representatives, contractors, and subcontractors with

access at all reasonable times to such Affected Property to conduct any activity regarding the Settlement, including those activities listed in Paragraph 25.a (Access Requirements); and (ii) refrain from using such Affected Property in any manner that EPA determines will pose an unacceptable risk to human health or to the environment due to exposure to Waste Material, or interfere with or adversely affect the implementation, integrity, or protectiveness of the removal action.

a. Access Requirements. The following is a list of activities for which access is required regarding the Affected Property:

- (1) Monitoring the Work;
- (2) Verifying any data or information submitted to the United States;
- (3) Conducting investigations regarding contamination at or near the Site;
- (4) Obtaining samples;
- (5) Assessing the need for, planning, implementing, or monitoring response actions;
- (6) Assessing implementation of quality assurance and quality control practices as defined in the approved quality assurance quality control plan as defined in the approved QAPP;
- (7) Implementing the Work pursuant to the conditions set forth in Paragraph 69 (Work Takeover);
- (8) Inspecting and copying records, operating logs, contracts, or other documents maintained or generated by Respondent or its agents, consistent with Section X (Access to Information);
- (9) Assessing Respondent's compliance with the Settlement;
- (10) Determining whether the Affected Property is being used in a manner that is prohibited or restricted, or that may need to be prohibited or restricted under the Settlement; and
- (11) Implementing, monitoring, maintaining, reporting on, and enforcing any land, water, or other resource use restrictions regarding the Affected Property.

26. Best Efforts. As used in this Section, "best efforts" means the efforts that a reasonable person in the position of Respondent would use so as to achieve the goal in a timely manner, including the cost of employing professional assistance and the payment of reasonable sums of money to secure access and/or use restriction agreements, as required by this Section. If Respondent is unable to accomplish what is required through "best efforts" in a timely manner, it shall notify EPA, and include a description of the steps taken to comply with the requirements. If



EPA deems it appropriate, it may assist Respondent, or take independent action, in obtaining such access and/or use restrictions. All costs incurred by the United States in providing such assistance or taking such action, including the cost of attorney time and the amount of monetary consideration or just compensation paid, constitute Response Costs to be reimbursed under Section XIV (Payment of Response Costs).

27. Respondent shall not Transfer its Affected Property unless it has first secured EPA's approval of, and transferee's consent to, an agreement that: (i) is enforceable by Respondent and EPA; and (ii) requires the transferee to provide access to and refrain from using the Affected Property to the same extent as is provided under Paragraphs 25.a (Access Requirements).

28. If EPA determines in a decision document prepared in accordance with the NCP that institutional controls in the form of state or local laws, regulations, ordinances, zoning restrictions, or other governmental controls or notices are needed, Respondent shall cooperate with EPA's efforts to secure and ensure compliance with such institutional controls.

29. In the event of any Transfer of the Affected Property, unless EPA otherwise consents in writing, Respondent shall continue to comply with its obligations under the Settlement, including its obligation to secure access and ensure compliance with any land, water, or other resource use restrictions regarding the Affected Property.

30. Notwithstanding any provision of the Settlement, EPA retains all of its access authorities and rights, as well as all of its rights to require land, water, or other resource use restrictions, including enforcement authorities related thereto under CERCLA, RCRA, and any other applicable statute or regulations.

#### X. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

31. Respondent shall provide to EPA, upon request, copies of all records, reports, documents, and other information (including records, reports, documents, and other information in electronic form) (hereinafter referred to as "Records") within Respondent's possession or control or that of its contractors or agents relating to activities at the Site or to the implementation of this Settlement, including, but not limited to, sampling, analysis, chain of custody records, manifests, trucking logs, receipts, reports, sample traffic routing, correspondence, or other documents or information regarding the Work. Respondent shall also make available to EPA, for purposes of investigation, information gathering, or testimony, its employees, agents, or representatives with knowledge of relevant facts concerning the performance of the Work.

##### 32. Privileged and Protected Claims.

a. Respondent may assert all or part of a Record requested by EPA is privileged or protected as provided under federal law, in lieu of providing the Record, provided Respondent complies with Paragraph 32.b, and except as provided in Paragraph 32.c.

b. If Respondent asserts such a privilege or protection, it shall provide EPA with the following information regarding such Record: its title; its date; the name, title, affiliation

(e.g., company or firm), and address of the author, of each addressee, and of each recipient; a description of the Record's contents; and the privilege or protection asserted. If a claim of privilege or protection applies only to a portion of a Record, Respondent shall provide the Record to EPA in redacted form to mask the privileged or protected portion only. Respondent shall retain all Records that it claims to be privileged or protected until EPA has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege or protection claim and any such dispute has been resolved in Respondent's favor.

c. Respondent may make no claim of privilege or protection regarding: (1) any data regarding the Site, including, but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic, scientific, chemical, radiological, or engineering data, or the portion of any other Record that evidences conditions at or around the Site; or (2) the portion of any Record that Respondent is required to create or generate pursuant to this Settlement.

33. Business Confidential Claims. Respondent may assert that all or part of a Record provided to EPA under this Section or Section XI (Record Retention) is business confidential to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(7), and 40 CFR § 2.203(b). Respondent shall segregate and clearly identify all Records or parts thereof submitted under this Settlement for which Respondent asserts business confidentiality claims. Records submitted to EPA determined to be confidential by EPA will be afforded the protection specified in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies Records when they are submitted to EPA, or if EPA has notified Respondent that the Records are not confidential under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA or 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B, the public may be given access to such Records without further notice to Respondent.

34. Notwithstanding any provision of this Settlement, EPA retains all of its information gathering and inspection authorities and rights, including enforcement actions related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA, and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

## XI. RECORD RETENTION

35. Until ten (10) years after EPA provides Respondent with notice, pursuant to Section XXVII (Notice of Completion of Work), that all Work has been fully performed in accordance with this Settlement, Respondent shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of Records (including Records in electronic form) now in its possession or control, or that come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to its liability under CERCLA with regard to the Site, provided, however, that Respondent, who is potentially liable as owner or operator of the Site, must retain, in addition, all Records that relate to the liability of any other person under CERCLA with respect to the Site. Respondent must also retain, and instruct its contractors and agents to preserve, for the same period of time specified above all non-identical copies of the last draft or final version of any Records (including Records in electronic form) now in its possession or control or that come into its possession or control that relate in any manner to the performance of the Work, provided, however, that Respondent (and its contractors and agents) must retain, in addition, copies of all data generated during the performance of the Work and not contained in the aforementioned Records required to be retained. Each of the

above record retention requirements shall apply regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.

36. At the conclusion of the document retention period, Respondent shall notify EPA at least ninety (90) days prior to the destruction of any such Records, and, upon request by EPA, and except as provided in Paragraph 32 (Privileged and Protected Claims), Respondent shall deliver any such Records to EPA.

37. Respondent certifies individually that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, it has not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of any Records (other than identical copies) relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by EPA or the State and that it has fully complied with any and all EPA and State requests for information regarding the Site pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927, and state law.

## XII. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS

38. Nothing in this Settlement limits Respondent's obligations to comply with the requirements of all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, except as provided in Section 121(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921(e), and 40 CFR §§ 300.400(e) and 300.415(j). In accordance with 40 CFR § 300.415(j), all on-site actions required pursuant to this Settlement shall, to the extent practicable, as determined by EPA, considering the exigencies of the situation, attain applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) under federal environmental or state environmental or facility siting laws.

39. No local, state, or federal permit shall be required for any portion of the Work conducted entirely on-site (i.e., within the areal extent of contamination or in very close proximity to the contamination and necessary for implementation of the Work), including studies, if the action is selected and carried out in compliance with Section 121 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9621. Where any portion of the Work that is not on-site requires a federal or state permit or approval, Respondent shall submit timely and complete applications and take all other actions necessary to obtain and to comply with all such permits or approvals. Respondent may seek relief under the provisions of Section XVI (Force Majeure) for any delay in the performance of the Work resulting from a failure to obtain, or a delay in obtaining, any permit or approval required for the Work, provided that it has submitted timely and complete applications and taken all other actions necessary to obtain all such permits or approvals. This Settlement is not, and shall not be construed to be, a permit issued pursuant to any federal or state statute or regulation.

## XIII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND NOTIFICATION OF RELEASES

40. Emergency Response. If any event occurs during performance of the Work that causes or threatens to cause a release of Waste Material on, at, or from the Site that either constitutes an emergency situation or that may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment, Respondent shall immediately take all appropriate action to prevent, abate, or minimize such release or threat of release. Respondent shall take these actions in accordance with all applicable provisions of this Settlement, including, but not limited to, the

Health and Safety Plan. Respondent shall also immediately notify the OSC or, in the event of his/her unavailability, the Regional Duty Officer at (800) 300-2193 of the incident or Site conditions. Finally, Respondent shall also immediately notify the emergency operator at 911, the California Office of Emergency Services State Warning Center at (800) 852-7520 and the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802. In the event that Respondent fails to take appropriate response action as required by this Paragraph, and EPA takes such action instead, Respondent shall reimburse EPA for all costs of such response action not inconsistent with the NCP pursuant to Section XIV (Payment of Response Costs).

41. Release Reporting. Upon the occurrence of any event during performance of the Work that Respondent is required to report pursuant to Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, or Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11004, Respondent shall immediately orally notify the OSC or, in the event of his/her unavailability, the Regional Duty Officer at (800) 300-2193, and the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802. This reporting requirement is in addition to, and not in lieu of, reporting under Section 103(c) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(c), and Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11004.

42. For any event covered under this Section, Respondent shall submit a written report to EPA within two (2) days after the onset of such event, setting forth the action or event that occurred and the measures taken, and to be taken, to mitigate any release or threat of release or endangerment caused or threatened by the release and to prevent the reoccurrence of such a release or threat of release.

#### XIV. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

43. Payments for Response Costs.

a. Respondent shall pay to EPA all Response Costs not inconsistent with the NCP. On a periodic basis, EPA will send Respondent a bill requiring payment that includes a cost summary report.

b. Respondent shall make all payments within thirty (30) days of receipt of each bill requiring payment. Unless otherwise directed by EPA, Respondent shall make all payments to EPA by Fedwire Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA = 021030004  
Account = 68010727  
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10045  
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

and shall reference Site/Spill ID Number A9A3 and the EPA docket number 2016-07 for this action.

c. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send notice that payment has been made to Robert Wise, wise.robert@epa.gov, and to the EPA Cincinnati Finance Office by email at cinwd\_acctsreceivable@epa.gov, or by mail to

EPA Cincinnati Finance Office  
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

Such notice shall reference Site/Spill ID Number A9A3 and the EPA docket number 2016-07 for this action.

d. The total amount to be paid by Respondent shall be deposited by EPA in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

44. Interest. In the event that any payment for Response Costs is not made by the date required, Respondent shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance. The Interest on Response Costs shall begin to accrue on the date of the bill. The Interest shall accrue through the date of Respondent's payment. Payments of Interest made under this Paragraph shall be in addition to such other remedies or sanctions available to the United States by virtue of Respondent's failure to make timely payments under this Section, including but not limited to, payment of stipulated penalties pursuant to Paragraph 56 (Stipulated Penalties – Work (Including Payments and Excluding Deliverables)).

45. Contesting Response Costs. Respondent may initiate the procedures of Section XV (Dispute Resolution) regarding payment of any Response Costs billed under Paragraph 43 (Payments for Response Costs) if it determines that EPA has made a mathematical error or included a cost item that is not within the definition of Response Costs, or if it believes EPA incurred excess costs as a direct result of an EPA action that was inconsistent with a specific provision or provisions of the NCP. To initiate such dispute, Respondent shall submit a Notice of Dispute in writing to the OSC within thirty (30) days after receipt of the bill. Any such Notice of Dispute shall specifically identify the contested Response Costs and the basis for objection. If Respondent submits a Notice of Dispute, Respondent shall within the thirty (30)-day period, also as a requirement for initiating the dispute, (a) pay all uncontested Response Costs to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 43, and (b) establish, in a duly chartered bank or trust company, an interest-bearing escrow account that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and remit to that escrow account funds equivalent to the amount of the contested Response Costs. Respondent shall send to the OSC a copy of the transmittal letter and check paying the uncontested Response Costs, and a copy of the correspondence that establishes and funds the escrow account, including, but not limited to, information containing the identity of the bank and bank account under which the escrow account is established as well as a bank statement showing the initial balance of the escrow account. If EPA prevails in the dispute, within five (5) days after the resolution of the dispute, Respondent shall pay the sums due (with accrued interest) to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 43. If Respondent prevails concerning any aspect of the contested costs, Respondent shall pay that portion of the costs (plus associated accrued interest) for which they did not prevail to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 43. Respondent shall be disbursed any balance of the escrow account. The dispute resolution procedures set forth in this Paragraph in conjunction with the procedures set forth in

Section XV (Dispute Resolution) shall be the exclusive mechanisms for resolving disputes regarding Respondent's obligation to reimburse EPA for its Response Costs.

## XV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

46. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Settlement, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism for resolving disputes arising under this Settlement. The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disagreements concerning this Settlement expeditiously and informally.

47. Informal Dispute Resolution. If Respondent objects to any EPA action taken pursuant to this Settlement, including billings for Response Costs, it shall send EPA a written Notice of Dispute describing the objection(s) within five (5) days after such action. EPA and Respondent shall have five (5) days from EPA's receipt of Respondent's Notice of Dispute to resolve the dispute through informal negotiations (the "Negotiation Period"). The Negotiation Period may be extended at the sole discretion of EPA. Any agreement reached by the Parties pursuant to this Section shall be in writing and shall, upon signature by the Parties, be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Settlement.

48. Formal Dispute Resolution. If the Parties are unable to reach an agreement within the Negotiation Period, Respondent shall, within ten (10) days after the end of the Negotiation Period, submit a statement of position to the OSC. EPA may, within ten (10) days thereafter, submit a statement of position. Thereafter, an EPA management official at the branch level or higher will issue a written decision on the dispute to Respondent. EPA's decision shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Settlement. Respondent shall fulfill the requirement that was the subject of the dispute in accordance with the agreement reached or with EPA's decision, whichever occurs.

49. Except as provided in Paragraph 45 (Contesting Response Costs) or as agreed by EPA, the invocation of formal dispute resolution procedures under this Section does not extend, postpone, or affect in any way any obligation of Respondent under this Settlement. Except as provided in Paragraph 59, stipulated penalties with respect to the disputed matter shall continue to accrue, but payment shall be stayed pending resolution of the dispute. Notwithstanding the stay of payment, stipulated penalties shall accrue from the first day of noncompliance with any applicable provision of this Settlement. In the event that Respondent does not prevail on the disputed issue, stipulated penalties shall be assessed and paid as provided in Section XVII (Stipulated Penalties).

## XVI. FORCE MAJEURE

50. "Force Majeure" for purposes of this Settlement, is defined as any event arising from causes beyond the control of Respondent, of any entity controlled by Respondent, or of Respondent's contractors that delays or prevents the performance of any obligation under this Settlement despite Respondent's best efforts to fulfill the obligation. The requirement that Respondent exercises "best efforts to fulfill the obligation" includes using best efforts to anticipate any potential force majeure and best efforts to address the effects of any potential force majeure (a) as it is occurring and (b) following the potential force majeure such that the delay and any adverse effects of the delay are minimized to the greatest extent possible. "Force

majeure” does not include financial inability to complete the Work or increased cost of performance.

51. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Settlement for which Respondent intends or may intend to assert a claim of force majeure, Respondent shall notify EPA’s OSC orally or, in his or her absence, the alternate EPA OSC, or, in the event both of EPA’s designated representatives are unavailable, the Associate Director of the Superfund Division, EPA Region 9, within forty-eight (48) hours of when Respondent first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within five (5) days thereafter, Respondent shall provide in writing to EPA an explanation and description of the reasons for the delay; the anticipated duration of the delay; all actions taken or to be taken to prevent or minimize the delay; a schedule for implementation of any measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate the delay or the effect of the delay; Respondent’s rationale for attributing such delay to a force majeure; and a statement as to whether, in the opinion of Respondent, such event may cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health or welfare, or the environment. Respondent shall include with any notice all available documentation supporting its claim that the delay was attributable to a force majeure. Respondent shall be deemed to know of any circumstance of which Respondent, any entity controlled by Respondent, or Respondent’s contractors knew or should have known. Failure to comply with the above requirements regarding an event shall preclude Respondent from asserting any claim of force majeure regarding that event, provided, however, that if EPA, despite the late or incomplete notice, is able to assess to its satisfaction whether the event is a force majeure under Paragraph 50 and whether Respondent have exercised its best efforts under Paragraph 50, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, excuse in writing Respondent’s failure to submit timely or complete notices under this Paragraph.

52. If EPA agrees that the delay or anticipated delay is attributable to a force majeure, the time for performance of the obligations under this Settlement that are affected by the force majeure will be extended by EPA for such time as is necessary to complete those obligations. An extension of the time for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure shall not, of itself, extend the time for performance of any other obligation. If EPA does not agree that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure, EPA will notify Respondent in writing of its decision. If EPA agrees that the delay is attributable to a force majeure, EPA will notify Respondent in writing of the length of the extension, if any, for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure.

53. If Respondent elects to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XV (Dispute Resolution), it shall do so no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of EPA’s notice. In any such proceeding, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure, that the duration of the delay or the extension sought was or will be warranted under the circumstances, that best efforts were exercised to avoid and mitigate the effects of the delay, and that Respondent complied with the requirements of Paragraphs 50 and 51. If Respondent carries this burden, the delay at issue shall be deemed not to be a violation by Respondent of the affected obligation of this Settlement identified to EPA.

54. The failure by EPA to timely complete any obligation under the Settlement is not a violation of the Settlement, provided, however, that if such failure prevents Respondent from meeting one or more deadlines under the Settlement, Respondent may seek relief under this Section.

## XVII. STIPULATED PENALTIES

55. Respondent shall be liable to EPA for stipulated penalties in the amounts set forth in Paragraphs 56 and 57 for failure to comply with the requirements of this Settlement specified below, unless excused under Section XVI (Force Majeure). "Compliance" by Respondent shall include completion of all activities and obligations, including payments, required under this Settlement, or any deliverable approved under this Settlement, in accordance with all applicable requirements of law, this Settlement, and any deliverables approved under this Settlement and within the specified time schedules established by and approved under this Settlement.

56. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Work (Including Payments and Excluding Deliverables). The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for any noncompliance implementing any Work Plan or requirement of this Order, except as may be covered in Paragraph 57 (Stipulated Penalty Amounts – Deliverables):

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$1,000	1st through 14th day
\$2,500	15th through 30th day
\$5,000	31st day and beyond

57. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Deliverables. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for failure to submit timely or adequate deliverables pursuant to this Settlement:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$ 500	1st through 14th day
\$ 1,500	15th through 30th day
\$ 3,000	31st day and beyond

58. In the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 69 (Work Takeover), Respondent shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of \$ 125,000.

59. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after the complete performance is due or the day a violation occurs and shall continue to accrue through the final day of the correction of the noncompliance or completion of the activity. Penalties shall continue to accrue during any dispute resolution period, and shall be paid within fifteen (15) days after the agreement or the receipt of EPA's decision or order. However, stipulated penalties shall not accrue: (a) with respect to a deficient submission under Paragraph 18 (Work Plan and Implementation), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after EPA's receipt of such submission until the date that EPA notifies Respondent of any deficiency; and (b) with respect to



a decision by the EPA Management Official at the branch level or higher, under Paragraph 48 (Formal Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the Negotiation Period begins until the date that the EPA Management Official issues a final decision regarding such dispute. Nothing in this Settlement shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Settlement.

60. Following EPA's determination that Respondent has failed to comply with a requirement of this Settlement, EPA may give Respondent written notification of the failure and describe the noncompliance. EPA may send Respondent a written demand for payment of the penalties. However, penalties shall accrue as provided in the preceding Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Respondent of a violation.

61. All penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable to EPA within thirty (30) days after Respondent's receipt from EPA of a demand for payment of the penalties, unless Respondent invokes the Dispute Resolution procedures under Section XV (Dispute Resolution) within the thirty (30) day period. All payments to EPA under this Section shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties and shall be made in accordance with Paragraph 43 (Payments for Response Costs).

62. If Respondent fails to pay stipulated penalties when due, Respondent shall pay Interest on the unpaid stipulated penalties as follows: (a) if Respondent has timely invoked dispute resolution such that the obligation to pay stipulated penalties has been stayed pending the outcome of dispute resolution, Interest shall accrue from the date stipulated penalties are due pursuant to Paragraph 59 until the date of payment; and (b) if Respondent fails to timely invoke dispute resolution, Interest shall accrue from the date of demand under Paragraph 61 until the date of payment. If Respondent fails to pay stipulated penalties and Interest when due, the United States may institute proceedings to collect the penalties and Interest.

63. The payment of penalties and Interest, if any, shall not alter in any way Respondent's obligation to complete the performance of the Work required under this Settlement.

64. Nothing in this Settlement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this Settlement or of the statutes and regulations upon which it is based, including, but not limited to, penalties pursuant to Sections 106(b) and 122(l) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b) and 9622(l), and punitive damages pursuant to Section 107(c)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(c)(3), provided however, that EPA shall not seek civil penalties pursuant to Section 106(b) or Section 122(l) of CERCLA or punitive damages pursuant to Section 107(c)(3) of CERCLA for any violation for which a stipulated penalty is provided in this Settlement, except in the case of a willful violation of this Settlement or in the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 69 (Work Takeover).

65. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Settlement.

## XVIII. COVENANTS BY EPA

66. Except as provided in Section XIX (Reservations of Rights by EPA), EPA covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Respondent pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a), for the Work and Response Costs. These covenants shall take effect upon the Effective Date. These covenants are conditioned upon the complete and satisfactory performance by Respondent of its obligations under this Settlement. These covenants extend only to Respondent and do not extend to any other person.

## XIX. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY EPA

67. Except as specifically provided in this Settlement, nothing in this Settlement shall limit the power and authority of EPA or the United States to take, direct, or order all actions necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment or to prevent, abate, or minimize an actual or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, or hazardous or solid waste on, at, or from the Site. Further, nothing in this Settlement shall prevent EPA from seeking legal or equitable relief to enforce the terms of this Settlement, from taking other legal or equitable action as it deems appropriate and necessary, or from requiring Respondent in the future to perform additional activities pursuant to CERCLA or any other applicable law.

68. The covenants set forth in Section XVIII (Covenants by EPA) do not pertain to any matters other than those expressly identified therein. EPA reserves, and this Settlement is without prejudice to, all rights against Respondent with respect to all other matters, including, but not limited to:

- a. liability for failure by Respondent to meet a requirement of this Settlement;
- b. liability for costs not included within the definition of Response Costs;
- c. liability for performance of response action other than the Work;
- d. criminal liability;
- e. liability for violations of federal or state law that occur during or after implementation of the Work;
- f. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;
- g. liability arising from the past, present, or future disposal, release or threat of release of Waste Materials outside of the Site; and
- h. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry related to the Site not paid as Response Costs under this Settlement.

69. Work Takeover.

a. In the event EPA determines that Respondent: (1) has ceased implementation of any portion of the Work; (2) is seriously or repeatedly deficient or late in its performance of the Work; or (3) is implementing the Work in a manner that may cause an endangerment to human health or the environment, EPA may issue a written notice ("Work Takeover Notice") to Respondent. Any Work Takeover Notice issued by EPA (which writing may be electronic) will specify the grounds upon which such notice was issued and will provide Respondent a period of three (3) days within which to remedy the circumstances giving rise to EPA's issuance of such notice.

b. If, after expiration of the three (3)-day notice period specified in Paragraph 69.a, Respondent has not remedied to EPA's satisfaction the circumstances giving rise to EPA's issuance of the relevant Work Takeover Notice, EPA may at any time thereafter assume the performance of all or any portion(s) of the Work as EPA deems necessary ("Work Takeover"). EPA will notify Respondent in writing (which writing may be electronic) if EPA determines that implementation of a Work Takeover is warranted under this Paragraph 69.b. In the event of a Work Takeover, upon request, Respondent shall provide a pipeline specialist to assist EPA in excavation activities near its gas pipelines.

c. Respondent may invoke the procedures set forth in Paragraph 48 (Formal Dispute Resolution) to dispute EPA's implementation of a Work Takeover under Paragraph 69.b. However, notwithstanding Respondent's invocation of such dispute resolution procedures, and during the pendency of any such dispute, EPA may in its sole discretion commence and continue a Work Takeover under Paragraph 69.b until the earlier of (1) the date that Respondent remedies, to EPA's satisfaction, the circumstances giving rise to EPA's issuance of the relevant Work Takeover Notice, or (2) the date that a written decision terminating such Work Takeover is rendered in accordance with Paragraph 48 (Formal Dispute Resolution).

d. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement, EPA retains all authority and reserves all rights to take any and all response actions authorized by law.

XX. COVENANTS BY RESPONDENT

70. Respondent covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to the Work, Response Costs, and this Settlement, including, but not limited to:

a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund through Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;

b. any claims under Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, Section 7002(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6972(a), or state law regarding the Work, Response Costs, and this Settlement;

c. any claim arising out of response actions at or in connection with the Site, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the State Constitution, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, or at common law; or

71. Except as provided in Paragraph 74 (Waiver of Claims by Respondent), these covenants not to sue shall not apply in the event the United States brings a cause of action or issues an order pursuant to any of the reservations set forth in Section XIX (Reservations of Rights by EPA), other than in Paragraph 68.a (liability for failure to meet a requirement of the Settlement), 68.d (criminal liability), or 68.e (violations of federal/state law during or after implementation of the Work), but only to the extent that Respondent's claim arises from the same response action, response costs, or damages that the United States is seeking pursuant to the applicable reservation.

72. Nothing in this Settlement shall be deemed to constitute approval or preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. § 300.700(d).

73. Respondent reserves, and this Settlement is without prejudice to, claims against the United States, subject to the provisions of Chapter 171 of Title 28 of the United States Code, and brought pursuant to any statute other than CERCLA or RCRA and for which the waiver of sovereign immunity is found in a statute other than CERCLA or RCRA, for money damages for injury or loss of property or personal injury or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the United States, as that term is defined in 28 U.S.C. § 2671, while acting within the scope of his or her office or employment under circumstances where the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred. However, the foregoing shall not include any claim based on EPA's selection of response actions, or the oversight or approval of Respondent's deliverables or activities.

74. Waiver of Claims by Respondent.

a. Respondent agrees not to assert any claims and to waive all claims or causes of action (including but not limited to claims or causes of action under Sections 107(a) and 113 of CERCLA) that it may have:

(1) De Micromis Waiver. For all matters relating to the Site against any person where the person's liability to Respondent with respect to the Site is based solely on having arranged for disposal or treatment, or for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances at the Site, or having accepted for transport for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at the Site, if all or part of the disposal, treatment, or transport occurred before April 1, 2001, and the total amount of material containing hazardous substances contributed by such person to the Site was less than 110 gallons of liquid materials or 200 pounds of solid materials.

b. Exceptions to Waiver.

(1) The waiver under this Paragraph 74 shall not apply with respect to any defense, claim, or cause of action that a Respondent may have against any person otherwise

covered by such waiver if such person asserts a claim or cause of action relating to the Site against such Respondent.

(2) The waiver under Paragraph 74.a(1) (De Micromis Waiver) shall not apply to any claim or cause of action against any person otherwise covered by such waiver if EPA determines that: (i) the materials containing hazardous substances contributed to the Site by such person contributed significantly or could contribute significantly, either individually or in the aggregate, to the cost of the response action or natural resource restoration at the Site; or (ii) such person has failed to comply with any information request or administrative subpoena issued pursuant to Section 104(e) or 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e) or 9622(e), or Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927, or has impeded or is impeding, through action or inaction, the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration with respect to the Site; or if (iii) such person has been convicted of a criminal violation for the conduct to which the waiver would apply and that conviction has not been vitiated on appeal or otherwise.

## XXI. OTHER CLAIMS

75. By issuance of this Settlement, the United States and EPA assume no liability for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from any acts or omissions of Respondent. The United States or EPA shall not be deemed a party to any contract entered into by Respondent or its directors, officers, employees, agents, successors, representatives, assigns, contractors, or consultants in carrying out actions pursuant to this Settlement.

76. Except as expressly provided in Paragraphs 74 (Waiver of Claims by Respondent) and Section XVIII (Covenants by EPA), nothing in this Settlement constitutes a satisfaction of or release from any claim or cause of action against Respondent or any person not a party to this Settlement, for any liability such person may have under CERCLA, other statutes, or common law, including but not limited to any claims of the United States for costs, damages, and interest under Sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607.

77. No action or decision by EPA pursuant to this Settlement shall give rise to any right to judicial review, except as set forth in Section 113(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(h).

## XXII. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION

78. Except as provided in Paragraph 74 (Waiver of Claims by Respondent), nothing in this Settlement shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Settlement. Except as provided in Section XX (Covenants by Respondent), each of the Parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, pursuant to Section 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which each Party may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a Party hereto. Nothing in this Settlement diminishes the right of the United States, pursuant to Section 113(f)(2) and (3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2)-(3), to pursue any such persons to obtain additional response costs or response action and to enter into settlements that give rise to contribution protection pursuant to Section 113(f)(2).

79. The Parties agree that this Settlement constitutes an administrative settlement pursuant to which Respondent has, as of the Effective Date, resolved liability to the United States within the meaning of Sections 113(f)(2) and 122(h)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9613(f)(2) and 9622(h)(4), and is entitled, as of the Effective Date, to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by Sections 113(f)(2) and 122(h)(4) of CERCLA, or as may be otherwise provided by law, for the “matters addressed” in this Settlement. The “matters addressed” in this Settlement are the Work and Response Costs.

80. The Parties further agree that this Settlement constitutes an administrative settlement pursuant to which Respondent has, as of the Effective Date, resolved liability to the United States within the meaning of Section 113(f)(3)(B) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(3)(B).

81. Respondent shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought by it for matters related to this Settlement, notify EPA in writing no later than sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Respondent also shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought against it for matters related to this Settlement, notify EPA in writing within ten (10) days after service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, Respondent shall notify EPA within ten (10) days after service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within ten (10) days after receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Settlement.

82. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by EPA, or by the United States on behalf of EPA, for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Site, Respondent shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the covenant by EPA set forth in Section XVIII (Covenants by EPA).

### XXIII. INDEMNIFICATION

83. The United States does not assume any liability by entering into this Settlement or by virtue of any designation of Respondent as EPA’s authorized representatives under Section 104(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e), and 40 C.F.R. 300.400(d)(3). Respondent shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the United States, its officials, agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and representatives for or from any and all claims or causes of action arising from, or on account of, negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Respondent, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, or subcontractors, and any persons acting on Respondent’s behalf or under its control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Settlement. Further, Respondent agrees to pay the United States all costs it incurs, including but not limited to attorneys’ fees and other expenses of litigation and settlement arising from, or on account of, claims made against the United States based on negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Respondent, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and any persons acting on its behalf or under its control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Settlement. The United States shall not be held out as a party to any contract entered into by or

on behalf of Respondent in carrying out activities pursuant to this Settlement. Neither Respondent nor any such contractor shall be considered an agent of the United States.

84. The United States shall give Respondent notice of any claim for which the United States plans to seek indemnification pursuant to this Section and shall consult with Respondent prior to settling such claim.

85. Respondent covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States for damages or reimbursement or for set-off of any payments made or to be made to the United States, arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between Respondent and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays. In addition, Respondent shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States with respect to any and all claims for damages or reimbursement arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between Respondent and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays.

#### XXIV. INSURANCE

86. No later than five (5) days before commencing any on-site Work, Respondent shall secure, and shall maintain until the first anniversary after issuance of Notice of Completion of Work pursuant to Section XXVII (Notice of Completion of Work), commercial general liability insurance with limits of \$ 2,000,000, for any one occurrence, and automobile insurance with limits of \$ 2,000,000, combined single limit, naming EPA as an additional insured with respect to all liability arising out of the activities performed by or on behalf of Respondent pursuant to this Settlement. In addition, for the duration of the Settlement, Respondent shall provide EPA with certificates of such insurance and a copy of each insurance policy. Respondent shall resubmit such certificates and copies of policies each year on the anniversary of the Effective Date. In addition, for the duration of the Settlement, Respondent shall satisfy, or shall ensure that its contractors or subcontractors satisfy, all applicable laws and regulations regarding the provision of worker's compensation insurance for all persons performing the Work on behalf of Respondent in furtherance of this Settlement. If Respondent demonstrates by evidence satisfactory to EPA that any contractor or subcontractor maintains insurance equivalent to that described above, or insurance covering some or all of the same risks but in a lesser amount, Respondent need provide only that portion of the insurance described above that is not maintained by the contractor or subcontractor.

#### XXV. MODIFICATION

87. The OSC may modify any plan or schedule in writing or by oral direction. Any oral modification will be memorialized in writing by EPA promptly, but shall have as its effective date the date of the OSC's oral direction. Any other requirements of this Settlement may be modified in writing by mutual agreement of the parties.

88. If Respondent seeks permission to deviate from any approved work plan or schedule, Respondent's Project Coordinator shall submit a written request to EPA for approval outlining the proposed modification and its basis. Respondent may not proceed with the

requested deviation until receiving oral or written approval from the OSC pursuant to Paragraph 87.

89. No informal advice, guidance, suggestion, or comment by the OSC or other EPA representatives regarding any deliverable submitted by Respondent shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to obtain any formal approval required by this Settlement, or to comply with all requirements of this Settlement, unless it is formally modified.

#### XXVI. ADDITIONAL REMOVAL ACTION

90. If EPA determines that additional removal actions not included in the Removal Work Plan or other approved plan(s) are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment, EPA will notify Respondent of that determination. Unless otherwise stated by EPA, within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice from EPA that additional removal actions are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment, Respondent shall submit for approval by EPA a work plan for the additional removal actions. The plan shall conform to the applicable requirements of Section VIII (Work to Be Performed) of this Settlement. Upon EPA's approval of the plan pursuant to Paragraph 18 (Work Plan and Implementation), Respondent shall implement the plan for additional removal actions in accordance with the provisions and schedule contained therein. This Section does not alter or diminish the OSC's authority to make oral modifications to any plan or schedule pursuant to Section XXV (Modification).

#### XXVII. NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF WORK

91. When EPA determines, after EPA's review of the Final Report, that all Work has been fully performed in accordance with this Settlement, with the exception of any continuing obligations required by this Settlement, including payment of Response Costs and record retention, EPA will provide written notice to Respondent. If EPA determines that such Work has not been completed in accordance with this Settlement, EPA will notify Respondent, provide a list of the deficiencies, and require that Respondent modify the Removal Work Plan if appropriate in order to correct such deficiencies. Respondent shall implement the modified and approved Removal Work Plan and shall submit a modified Final Report in accordance with the EPA notice. Failure by Respondent to implement the approved modified Removal Work Plan shall be a violation of this Settlement.

#### XXVIII. INTEGRATION

92. This Settlement constitutes the final, complete, and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Settlement. The Parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements, or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Settlement.

#### XXIX. EFFECTIVE DATE


93. This Settlement shall be effective immediately after the Settlement is signed by the Assistant Director, Superfund Division.



IT IS SO AGREED AND ORDERED:

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:**


19 February 2016  
Dated

  
Daniel Meer, Assistant Director  
Superfund Division, Region 9

Signature Page for Settlement Regarding PG&E Mercury Emergency Response Site

**FOR PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY:**

2/18/2016  
Dated

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry White, Director  
Facility Integrity Management and Technical Services  
Gas Operations